

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

08/791,724

Applicant(s)

PRYOR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

James W Myhre

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on December 6, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 1/31/97 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on December 6, 2004 is sufficient to overcome the Basu et al reference. The amendment changed Claim 2 into an independent claim. The amendment also amended Claims 1 and 3. The currently pending claims considered below are Claims 1-8 and 10-17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. The amendment filed on December 6, 2004 amended Claims 1 and 3 so as to place them within the technological arts. Therefore, the previous rejection of these claims and their dependent claims in the Office Action of August 5, 2004 is hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8 and 10-17 are allowed.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art was found which disclosed a variety of economic models for predicting changes in an economy using a plurality of agents with decision rules by receiving input values for each agent, outputting changes to the value based on the decision rules, and

repeating the steps until a terminal condition is met (e.g. predetermined error rate is achieved) at which time a representation of the final economic prediction is output. (Goonatilake et al, "Intelligent Systems for Finance and Business", chapters 14-16, pages 251-311; Pindyck et al, "Microeconomics", pages 649-657; Manos, US 5,884,283, col 10, line 12 – col 14, line 55; Sandretto, US 5,812,988, col 8, line 52 – col 12, line 55; Sakashita et al, JP 08314892, Abstract; Dethloff et al, DE 3830326, Abstract. However, prior art was not located which disclosed in detail the specific steps as in independent claims 1, 2, 10, and 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Krist et al (5,486,995) discloses a method and apparatus for an optimizing modeling system using "the current economic conditions".

b. Tull, Jr. et al (5,946,667) discloses a method and apparatus for using modeling systems to forecast economic conditions in the stock market.

c. Harhen (5,406,477) discloses a method and apparatus for generating projections of economic changes.

d. Miller et al (5,652,717) discloses a method and apparatus for collecting and analyzing economic data for a geographical area to simulate the predicted outcome of various actions.


e. Keane (5,737,581) discloses a method and apparatus for a simulator which uses financial and macroeconomic models to enhance realism.


f. Orr et al (5,818,737) discloses a method and apparatus for predicting economic development of a community based on simulated economic changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exr. James W. Myhre whose telephone number is (571) 272-6722. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9306. Draft or Informal faxes, which will not be entered in the application, may be submitted directly to the examiner at (571) 273-6722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.


JWM
May 4, 2005


James W. Myhre
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622